

PATENT SPECIFICATION

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DRAWINGS ATTACHED.

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COMPLETE SPECIFICATION.

Improvements relating to Containers for Toilet Salves and the like.

We, LAUGHTON AND SONS LIMITED, formerly Jarrett, Rainsford & Laughton Limited, a British Company, of Warstock Road, Warstock, Birmingham 14, do hereby declare the invention, for which we pray that a patent may be granted to us, and the method by which it is to be performed, to be particularly described in and by the following statement:—

Toilet salves, such as lip salves, are commonly put up for the market in the form of a short stick inserted in a stick holder made of metal or moulded plastic substance which can readily be held and manipulated by the fingers. The stick holder is often provided with means for propelling the stick into and retracting it from a position of use. The complete stick holder may be made of cheap material and be adapted for fitting in a decorative or more expensive container suitable for carrying in a lady's handbag. When a stick of salve is used up, the stick holder (complete with the stick-propelling means, if provided) can be bodily removed and discarded and a new holder containing a new stick of salve inserted in the container in place of it. The stick holder is withdrawn from the container for use.

Normally the outer container comprises a base part having a socket in which the base of the stick holder can be received, and a removable tubular cover, having one end open to engage frictionally with the base part, and closed at its other end. Such containers are usually designed to house one size of stick holder only.

According to the invention a container for accommodating a stick of toilet salve or the like comprises a tubular case, of greater length than a holder in which the stick is supported, the case being closed at one end

and having within it a resilient gripping sleeve or cage, for receiving and releasably holding the stick holder, the sleeve or cage being axially slidable to a limited extent against the resistance of a spring and in its outermost position enables a stick holder within it to project sufficiently from the open end of the tubular case to permit its easy withdrawal, but the gripping sleeve or cage and the stick holder can be moved bodily inwardly until the stick holder is wholly within the case whereupon the open end of the case can be closed.

The cap for closing the open end of the case is preferably hinged to the case at or near its open end and has resilient means for retaining it in the closed position.

The appended sheet of drawings illustrates a convenient embodiment.

In the drawings:—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the container closed.

Figure 2 is a similar view of the open container with the stick holder in its partly projected position.

Figure 3 is a sectional view of the container and sleeve but with the stick holder in elevation.

Figure 4 is an elevation of the slidable sleeve and its spring.

Figure 5 is a plan of the sleeve.

The container comprises a tubular case *a* with a hinged lid *b* which has a snap fastening lip *c* opposite the hinge *d*. The lip *c* engages over the opposite edge of the tubular case and into a groove *e*. The sleeve or cage *f*, slidable within the case *a* is of a length about two thirds of that of the case and of inner diameter larger than the largest stick holder to be received in it. It is provided near the end which is intended to be inner-

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most in the case *a* with an internal ledge *g*, for example by rolling a groove around its exterior. The resilient gripping means of the sleeve or cage for engaging a removable stick holder are formed around its median part by slitting the sleeve *f* to form spring tongues *h* which are pressed inwardly to such an extent that they define a circle of substantially smaller diameter than the inner diameter of the sleeve, so that they can grip releasably stick holders of a range of differing diameters.

The ledge *g* within one end of the sleeve *f* forms an abutment for one end of a spring *i* which is preferably introduced between the sleeve and the closed end of the container *a* so as to urge the sleeve outwardly. Small inward abutments *j* are formed in the open end of the container *a* to engage the outer end of the sleeve *f* and limit its outward movement under the pressure of the spring. The ledge *g* within the sleeve, in addition to forming an abutment for one end of the spring *i* is engaged by the end of the stick holder *k* when the holder *k* is fully inserted in the sleeve.

When the stick holder and stick is thus inserted in the sleeve *f* and the sleeve is in its outermost position against the abutment *j*, the butt end *m* of the stick holder projects from the container and can easily be gripped by the fingers of a user for withdrawing it from the sleeve as shown in Figure 3. However, by pushing the butt end *m* of the holder *k* the spring-pressed sleeve *f* and the holder gripped by the resilient tongues *h* of the sleeve will be bodily housed within the container *a* and the open end of the container can be closed. It is preferred to provide means for preventing the sliding sleeve *f* from turning relatively to the container. In an angular section container as illustrated this can be effected by forcing out oppositely projecting parts of the rim above the ledge of the sleeve as at *n* in Figure 5.

Where the stick holder is provided with known propelling means (not shown) such as a longitudinally guided cup for the base of the stick of salve and a rotatable sleeve surrounding the cup and having a helical slot which engages a projection from the cup so as to traverse it in the stick holder, the butt *m* is a rotatable part which can be turned by the fingers to move the cup and stick.

The container provided by the invention is suitable for use with a variety of sizes of stick holders which can be inserted and withdrawn quickly and easily. The spring means are provided for urging the gripping

sleeve towards its outermost position, then on opening the cap of the case, the stick holder housed in the container is automatically presented for withdrawal and use.

WHAT WE CLAIM IS:—

1. A container for accommodating a stick of salve or the like comprising a tubular case, of greater length than a holder in which the stick is supported, the case being closed at one end and having within it a resilient gripping sleeve or cage, for receiving and releasably holding the stick holder, the sleeve or cage being axially slidable to a limited extent against the resistance of a spring and in its outermost position enables a stick holder within it to project sufficiently from the open end of the tubular case to permit its easy withdrawal, but the gripping sleeve or cage and the stick holder can be moved bodily inwardly until the stick holder is wholly within the case whereupon the open end of the case can be closed.

2. A container for accommodating a stick of salve or the like comprising a tubular case closed at one end, a sleeve or cage therein for receiving a holder in which the stick is supported, the sleeve or cage being axially slidable within the case but limited in its outward movement; a spring arranged to urge the sleeve or cage outwardly and to cause a part of the stick holder to project from the tubular case, inwardly-directed resilient tongues in the sleeve or cage arranged so as to define a circle of smaller diameter than the internal diameter of the sleeve in order that they can grip releasably stick holders of a range of different diameters, and a hinged cap with spring fastenings for closing the open end of the tubular case when the stick holder and the sleeve or cage in which it is releasably gripped, are pushed wholly within the case.

3. A container for accommodating a stick of salve or the like according to Claim 1 or Claim 2, in which the sleeve or cage has an inward ledge or abutment near its inner end for the engagement of one end of a compression spring and limiting means are provided on the case to engage and prevent removal of the sleeve or cage from the case.

4. A container for accommodating a stick of salve or the like substantially as described herein and illustrated by the accompanying drawings.

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PROVISIONAL SPECIFICATION.

Improvements relating to Containers for Toilet Salves and the like.

We, JARRETT, RAINSFORD & LAUGHTON LIMITED, a British Company, of Warstock Road, Warstock, Birmingham, 14, do hereby declare this invention to be described in the following statement:—

It is common in containers for toilet salves and the like to provide a cartridge in which the stick of salve or the like is mounted and which is complete with propelling and retracting means for the stick, which is made of cheap material and removably mounted in a decorative or other more expensive outer container. When the stick of salve is used up, the cartridge can be removed bodily from the outer container and discarded, and a new cartridge containing a new stick inserted in its place.

Normally the outer container comprises a base part having a socket in which the base of the cartridge can be received, and a removable tubular cover, having one end open to engage frictionally with the base part, and closed at its other end. Such containers are usually designed to house one size of cartridge only.

According to the present invention a container for a stick of toilet salve or the like comprises a tubular case, of length greater than a cartridge in which the stick is mounted, closed at one end and having within it resilient gripping means for receiving and releasably holding the cartridge, the gripping means being axially slidable to a limited extent within the case whereby the cartridge, when fully inserted in the gripping means with the gripping means in its outermost position, projects partly from the case for easy withdrawal, but the cartridge and gripping means can then be moved bodily inwardly until the cartridge is wholly within the case and the open end of the case can be closed by a cap.

Preferably the gripping means is spring urged towards its outermost position so that the cartridge is normally held in its projecting position except when moved inwardly for fitting the cap to the open end of the case.

The cap for closing the open end of the case is preferably hinged to the case at or near its open end and has resilient means for retaining it in the closed position.

In one convenient embodiment the gripping means comprises a sleeve slidable within the case, of length about two-thirds of

the length of the case and of inner diameter larger than the largest cartridge to be received in it, having at its median part three or more inwardly sprung tongues pressed from the metal of the sleeve, and substantially equally spaced around its wall. The tongues will grip resiliently a cartridge inserted in the sleeve and are inwardly pressed to such an extent that their ends define a circle of substantially smaller diameter than the inner diameter of the sleeve, so that they can grip satisfactorily cartridges of differing diameters.

A coil spring is preferably interposed between the closed end of the case and the inner end of the sleeve, so as to urge the sleeve outwardly, and two or more inward abutments are formed near the open end of the case to engage the end of the sleeve and limit its outward movement. Near its inner end, the sleeve has an inwardly pressed circumferential shoulder which forms an abutment for the spring and also engages the end of a cartridge when the latter is fully inserted in the sleeve. When a cartridge is so inserted and the sleeve in its outermost position the butt end of the cartridge still projects from the casing and can easily be gripped by the fingers of a user for withdrawing it from the sleeve. However, by simply pushing on this butt end, the sleeve and cartridge may be moved inwardly so that the cartridge is housed wholly within the case, and the open end of the case can be closed by a cap.

Conveniently the cap is hinged to one side of the case, at or near its open end, and has at its end a resilient catch part to engage a complementary notch or other striker part on the opposite side of the case.

The container provided by the invention is suitable for use with a variety of sizes of cartridge which can be inserted and withdrawn quickly and easily. When spring means are provided for urging the gripping means towards its outermost position, then on opening the cap of the case, the cartridge housed in the container is automatically presented for withdrawal and use.

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the Original on a reduced scale.

